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U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigates fraudulent business credit card ring

CINCINNATI, OH — A three-count indictment charging five individuals involved in a fraudulent business credit card ring has been unsealed following the arrest of three of the defendants. The indictment alleges that the scheme caused a loss of approximately \$767,000 since December 2005.

A federal grand jury returned the indictment under seal on July 25. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service received information in January 2007 from a credit card investigator that the U.S. Mails were being used by individuals in Dayton, Ohio to obtain credit cards using a company name in Cincinnati, Ohio. Further investigation disclosed that multiple companies in Cincinnati, Dayton and Michigan were utilized as part of the scheme.

The indictment alleges that the individuals applied for business credit cards via the internet or telephonically using their names along with the business names and had the credit cards sent to various addresses and post office boxes in the Dayton, OH area. The indictment names the following individuals:

STEPHEN M. MOBLEY, 31, of Dayton, OH charged with three counts to include Conspiracy, Mail Fraud and Identity Theft. Postal Inspectors arrested Mobley on June 21, 2007 on a criminal complaint and he is currently in custody;

GEORGE NELSON, 37, of Dayton, OH was charged with one count of Conspiracy. Nelson was arrested on July 30, 2007;

JASON SMITH, 28, Kettering, OH was charged with one count of Conspiracy. Smith was arrested on July 31, 2007.

TED BETTKER, 36, of West Carrollton, OH was charged with one count of Conspiracy. Bettker was arrested on August 2, 2007.

TONY STONEROCK, 31, of Dayton, OH was charged with one count of Conspiracy. Stonerock is currently serving a federal sentence on a charge not related to this indictment.

An indictment is merely an accusation - all defendants are presumed innocent. The investigation is continuing and more arrests are expected. The maximum punishments are 30 years imprisonment for Mail Fraud and 20 years for Conspiracy. Aggravated Identity Theft is punishable by a mandatory two-year sentence.